Three empires dominate the planet: the Han ruled from Chang’an; the Romans conquered most of Alexander’s territory along with areas west of Italy; the Olmecs and Zapotecs in Mexico created the metropolis of Teotihuacan, with its immense pyramids of sacrificial altars.

- The Roman Empire was covered in Part I, Chapter 5, Part 1.
- While the Romans were consolidating their empire around the Mediterranean, Chinese emperors amassed an even larger territory in Asia.
- China will pick up again in Chapter 7.
200 BCE - 300 CE

OUTLINE:

5.2 ANCIENT CHINA: THE PIVOT OF THE COSMOS IN MUD AND WOOD
   The Unification of China behind the Great Wall: city diagrams; the Great Wall
   Han Chang’an: Enclosed urban types
   Chinese domestic architecture: courtyard houses; tomb models

5.3 ANCIENT MEXICO: PYRAMIDS AND SACRIFICE

Dates:
Buddha 5th-4th cent. BCE
Laozi of Daoism 604-531 +/- BCE Daoism stresses a harmonious contact with nature
Confucius 551-479 BCE Confucianism stresses empathy, morality and justice and adherence to traditional relationships

• In the architecture of ancient China, the type, or idea, of a building became more important than the built work.
• Ancient Chinese builders showed little concern for permanence in architecture. Building was understood as a continual process to be repeated in eternal cycles.
• China traces over 8,000 years of development. Agriculture arose in China around 5,000 years ago. There is archeological evidence of early settlements 4,000 years ago, and the earliest known Chinese palace to 2,000 years ago. (Stokstad) Neolithic sites found multifamily houses of wood, bamboo, wattle, daub and mud plaster, equipped with hearths.
• Archeological exploration in China starts in the 1920’s. Many potential sites are still inhabited.
• Indigenous Chinese religious traditions were based on a belief in life after death, ancestor worship and animism – a reverence for nature including for the sky, sun and moon. (Moffett)
• Dao means path or way. Daoism is the Ultimate Way, the Way of the universe, described by Laozi/ Laotzu and Zhuangzi (under the Zhou period and into the Han); the way is like water, humble and hidden; emphasizing non-conformity and individualism. Daoism sought harmony of human action and the world through the study of nature.
• Confucianism is from the same period (Confucius 551-479 BCE) emphasizes propriety, deference, duty and self discipline. (Stokstad)
• Unlike almost every other civilization, the great cities of China were often destroyed not by foreign invasion but by inner rebellion or the transformation from one dynasty to another, when entire cities would be put to the torch. This is one of the reasons that so little Chinese architecture has survived the ages. (Wiley)
Ruling Dynasties: The first several are all in the Bronze Age:

Hsia/ Xia 2200 BCE: this is prehistoric; archeologists have found urban sites, implements and tombs

Shang/ Yin 1750-1100 BCE:
- ruled from the Yellow River valley;
- archeologists have found walled cities, palaces, vast royal tombs, often including human and animal sacrifice;
- cities as ceremonial centers with workshops for pottery, jade and bronze to make ritual objects. (Wiley)
- they had a widespread culture, oracle bones show the evidence of the first Chinese writing.
- It was during the Shang that the royal person came to be viewed as a symbol of cosmic powers. Ordinary people were no longer considered to become spirit ancestors; the ancestors of the elite became the spiritual ancestors of all. (Wiley)
- Shang era tombs include rich burials for royal women which was uncommon elsewhere. Fu Hao, the wife of Wu Ding, had a tomb with more than a thousand jade and bronze objects, as well as human and animal sacrifices. Her tomb was a square wooden room at the base of a pit.

Zhou/ Chou 1100-256 BCE the longest dynasty/ Warring States Period 481-221 BCE
- former vassals of the Shang, from western China; the first ruler was Wu Wang
- created a feudal society; led during a period of turmoil
- Confucius lived during this time as did Lao Tzu.
- cities became capitals of states, became both political and economic centers; both walled off. (Wiley)
- towers, pillar gates and raised buildings used to demonstrate power, as in the capital Xianyang, near Xi’an
- the Zhou transition to iron, developing cast-iron (rather than forged as in the west) around 500 BCE (Wiley)
- unified the use of the Chinese language. Those resistant moved south to southeast Asia. (Wiley)

Qin/ Ch’in 221-207 BCE: “the Middle Kingdom” (today’s lecture)
- this is the first time China is unified under a single ruler, the “first” emperor Qin Shihuangdi, who moved about in secret on elevated walkways. (Wiley)
- created a centralized bureaucracy; standardized writing and language (Wiley)
- roads were built as well as the Great Wall, and his tomb with the terracotta warriors.

Han 206 BC-220 CE: (today’s lecture)
- peaceful, prosperous and stable, vied with Hadrian’s Rome as the world’s most powerful state.
- the silk route begins at the time of Pan Ch’ao, 32-102 CE (Fletcher); Buddhist influence reaches China.
- Emperor Wudi/ Wu Ti makes Confucianism the official philosophy

Six-dynasties/ Southern and Northern Dynasties 265-589 CE:
- constant turmoil. None of this architecture remains, see Horyuki Temple in Japan based on Chinese models. (Stokstad/ Gardner)
- It was in the Northern States connected to the Silk Road that Buddhism takes root. (Gardner)
Expansion of Han Dynasty

Xi’An is also the region for Fengchu.
Note:

- Archeologists have found remains of farming and craft villages in the Yellow River Valley, most notably at Banpo, where small houses of both circular and rectangular plans have been reconstructed based on foundation remains. The rectangular houses were recessed a half story into the ground and had a pyramid roof of lightweight wooden members lasted together at the top. Circular huts had side walls of wattle covered inside and out by a thick layer of cay for insulation, as did the conical roof. (Moffett)
**Title:** Fengchu site, main building

**Architect:** early and middle Western Zhou period

**Date:** 1100-1000 BCE

**Source:** chinaknowledge.de/History/Zhou/zhou-art.html

**Medium:** 3-d diagram of wooden building

**Size:** n/a

**Note:**
- “Reconstruction of the temple-palace complex in Fengchu, Shaanxi. It can be seen that the traditional composition of halls and colonnades standing on elevated platforms and grouped around courtyards is already fully developed during the Western Zhou period, even if the roofs might not have been as impressive as in later buildings.” (Zhongguo shehui kexue yuan kaogu yanjiusuo 2004: 58./Chinaknowledge.de)

- Under the Zhou ritual halls became part of the standard architectural vocabulary. Bronze vessels would be set out on the floor or shelves in preestablished order accompanied by chimes that marked noble rank. (Wiley)
THE HAN EMPIRE

Yellow River

Xi’An

Yangzi River

Xi River

Source: Pearson
Note: n/a
TOMB OF MARQUIS YI, SUIXIAN, HUBEI

Title: View of Tomb Chambers, Tomb of Marquis Yi, Suixian, Hubei Province
Architect: Early Warring States Period
Date: 433 BCE


Medium: pit, included ritual objects and weapons
Size: 13 m. deep and 200 sq. m. in area

Note:
- The most visible remnants of Zhou architecture are tombs of which more than 6,000 have been discovered.
- The Tomb of Zeng Hou Yi/ Marquis Yi of Zeng included a set of 65 ritual bells, as well as coffins and additional skeletons.
- Small window like openings connect the chambers and are also similar to decorations on the coffins. In Daoism, when a person dies his hun or spiritual soul would leave, but his p’o or earthly soul would remain attached to the body. The openings may facilitate the movement of the p’o. (Wiley)
The State of Qin


c. 260 BCE

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**Title: The Qin State**

**Date:** Qin 221-207 BCE; map is of 260 BCE

**Source:** wikipedia

**Note:**
- The Great Wall is begun by the first Qin emperor and completed during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 CE. It was intended to keep the Mongols out. (Moffett)
- another theory is that it was intended to keep the Han from joining the Mongols.
- We’ll look at Luoyang later on for a city plan.
- When the Qin conquered a warring state, the enemy’s palace was destroyed and a replica built on the Wei river. Over a hundred thousand vanquished people were also resettled to Xianyang to reduce the possibility of rebellion. (Wiley)
Note:

- The first emperor enforced the use of a universal written language and a universal currency. He promoted Chinese unity through a network of straight highways that connected the provinces.
- the Great Wall, first version: Shi Huangdi literally outlined the state with the world’s greatest public work, integrating several partial barriers begun by earlier regimes.
- 400,000 laborers work on the project over the course of ten years. Materials changed according to the region, from pounded earth (pisé) over wooden palisades, to fired bricks, to stones.
- Guard towers at intervals of roughly 130 m./415’ for communication relays.
- The Great Wall that one visits today was rebuilt 16 centuries later during the Ming dynasty. The single largest structure in the world. (OUP)
- Xi’An is established by the Zhou. (Wiley)
China underwent significant cultural development after iron replaced bronze as the principal metal in the 7th cent. BCE, increasing the efficiency of both agriculture and weaponry.

New prosperity led to the decentralization of power and a wider diffusion of literacy.

“Spring and Autumn Period” (722–481 BCE): The two great schools of Chinese philosophy emerged around the figures of Confucius (551–479 BCE?), an administrator from Lu province, and the legendary Lao-Tzu. Emperor Shi Huangdi (259–210 BCE), founder of the Qin dynasty, united the seven warring kingdoms into the first true empire of China in 221 BCE. Shi Huangdi reapportioned the states of the empire into a system of 36 provinces administered through a centralized bureaucracy.

The population of the empire grew to over 50 million inhabitants.

The only durable structure, the Great Wall along the northern and western frontiers, was an amalgam of several walls. (OUP)
In China the primary impetus for building came from government (the imperial court and state) rather than from religious organizations or private patrons. (Moffett)
Note:

- The eastern sections of the current wall, which in some places have parallel sets of walls, extend for over 500 km (300 miles) without interruption at an average height of 11 m (35 ft.). (OUP)
- Note watchtowers and battlements. (Moffett)
- In fact it was easily breached by nomadic groups many of which went on to establish ruling dynasties, The Jin, Liao, Yuan and Qing. (Wiley)
The wall: “follows the contours of the country, climbs mountain tops, descends deep gorges, strides across lofty table lands and spans wide rivers, like a huge serpent wrought in brick and stone”. Originally an earth embankment faced at stone at a later date, and the towers originate from 1368 CE. (Fletcher)
Title: Great Wall, China

Architect: begun by Shi Huangdi

Date: 200 BCE-300 CE; to 1368 CE

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Photographs_of_Great_Wall_of_China

Medium: photo

Size: see previous

Note:
- Jiayuguan Fortress, the Westernmost Fort on the Great Wall of China, Gansu Province, 1875 (Wikipedia)
Title: sepulcher for Shi Huangdi’s terra-cotta army, Xi’an
Architect: Qin dynasty, commissioned by Shi Huangdi
Date: circa 210 BCE, discovered 1974
Note:
- Shi Huangdi conscripted 700,000 laborers to build his tomb.
- The tomb itself is yet unexcavated. (Gardner)

Source: wikipedia (above);
OUP
Medium: terra-cotta above,
plan at right, located under a
huge pyramid mound of rubble
and earth
Size: pyramid was 350 m. per
side (1148 ft.) and 75 m. high.
Title: Soldiers, from the mausoleum of Emperor Shihuangdi, Lintong, Shaanxi

Architect: Qin (the name China comes from Qin) dynasty, commissioned by Shi Huangdi

Date: circa 210 BCE, when China is first unified under a single ruler, discovered in 1974

Note:

- His vast funeral complex at Lishan (discovered in 1974). Includes a huge pyramid mound built of rubble and earth. To the east of his funerary park Shi Huangdi built a vast underground sepulcher for a terra cotta army of 8,000 life-size foot soldiers, archers, and charioteers. Many later historians trained in Confucian doctrines condemned Shi Huangdi for his acts of repression. There are mixed opinions, however, about his regime. (OUP)

Source: Pearson

Medium: Earthenware, cast in molds

Size: life size, 8000 soldiers and 100 horses
Note:
- the figures were arrayed in pits, written about by a 2nd cent. BCE historian, Sima Qian. (Gardner)
- the rows of earth probably completely separated the rows of “warriors” and reached the mounds above.
THE TERRA COTTA WARRIORS

Title:
Soldiers, from the mausoleum of Emperor Shihuangdi, Lintong, Shaanxi

Architect:
Qin dynasty, commissioned by Shi Huangdi

Date: Qin dynasty, circa 210 BCE

Source: Pearson

Medium: earthenware, cast of interchangeable parts

Size: life size

Note:
• During the first millennium the Chinese emperor acquired the semi-divine status of “Son of Heaven.” The combination of political and religious roles in the emperor projected a compelling sense of centrality and hierarchy on the organization of the state, capital cities, and palace compounds. (OUP)
• Shi Huangdi repressed all philosophies except legalism, which espoused absolute obedience to the state’s authority. (Gardner)
Map Early Asia: Silk Route

Note:
- begins under the Han Dynasty, 206 BC-220 CE
- Great Wall is shown as a jagged line.

Date: flourishes by 100 CE

Source: Pearson
Title: Growth of the Chinese Empire
Date: see map
Ruling Dynasties: Han 206 BC-220 CE
Source: www2.kenyon.edu/Depts/Religion/Fac/Adler/Asia201/Maps/Han%20Empire.jpg
Note:
- Chang'an was the eastern terminus of the Silk Road.
- The first records of China as a unified political dominion began with the Hsia dynasty, around the time of Ur, 2200 BCE. (OUP)
- The Chinese built a network of canals, 1776 km. in total length between the 5th cent. BCE and the 7th cent. CE. The Han ruled an area larger than the Roman empire. Changan was located at the edge of the territory out of concern re the Xiongnu in Mongolia. (Wiley)
Title: Wangcheng – “the ruler’s city”
Architect: Zhou  Date: 5th cent. CE
Source: OUP  Medium: diagram
Size: a quadrangle side is ideally 4000’ long

Note:
- **Capitals**: When the Chinese founded a capital city they relied on general rules: a quadrangle, with three gates each side, and three avenues running from each gate.
- **The palace**: (not shown) faced south in the direction of the Red Phoenix of summer and fire; and to take advantage of the sun and prevailing winds. To the east lay the symbolic region of the Blue Dragon and the Temple of the Ancestors. Autumn was associated with the White Tiger in the West. From the north came winter and the marauding hordes.
- **unlike Greece, no open space for civic life.**
- **The fixed order**: in the wangcheng diagram corresponded to the Confucian notion of rigid hierarchies.
- **Nondurable materials**: such as mud bricks and wood meant that few ancient Chinese buildings survived. (OUP)
- **the earliest surviving Chinese buildings date from the 6th cent. CE, but we have archeological and written evidence of earlier practices. A treatise on city planning, known as the Kao Gong Ji or the Artificer’s Record is a guide for city planning on Confucian principles. (Moffett)
- **the diagram places the emperor at the center of the world. Cheng means city, but also walling a city, or city wall (Wiley)**
Title: Jian module, proportional bays used in Chinese buildings

Architect: Han Chinese

Date: system used in 200 BCE-300 CE  Source: OUP

Medium: diagram; the circles represent structural timber posts.

Size: the jian, shown shaded, had an average size of 3 x 6 m., (10-12 x 15-20 ft.)

Jian: a module used in Chinese wooden architecture, particularly houses, measuring about 12 x 20'

Note:
- Architects used modular system that comprised eight different ranks of buildings, defined by the number of bays and the size of the module. (OUP)
- The jian was defined as the basic measure in construction. More elaborate buildings contained additional jian usually in odd numbers to obtain a central bay. The structure was separate from the system of enclosure the buildings have a freedom in plan, as non-load bearing walls can be located in response to internal needs. Important buildings are elevated on a podium and have greater size, central location, elaborate ornamentation, timber brackets, hipped roofs, symbolic color schemes of yellow and red. All structures are axial. (Moffett)
- Multiplication of bays could extend a building’s length to any dimension, although each bay could be no wider or longer than the length of a tree trunk. The use of modules allowed for standardization and rapid construction. (Gardner)
Title: Chang’an, “eternal peace” Han capital, (today known as Xi’an)

Architect: Zhou dynasty  Date: beginning about 1000 BCE, refounded on wangcheng principles as the Han capital circa 200 BCE  Source: OUP

Medium: hypothetical diagram, gates are not shown

Size: main NS thoroughfare ~50 m. wide

Note:

• **Han Chang’an: Enclosed Urban Type:** The ruling dynasties of China did not conceive of architecture as public service. The central task of government in the cities remained social control.

• After the civil war that followed the death of Qin Shihuangdi in 210 BCE, Gaozu (“the great progenitor,” r. 206–195 BCE, restored order to China, founding the Han dynasty. Ruled for over four centuries. Gaozu refounded Chang’an on the wangcheng principles. His city repeated a variation of the grid plan of the old capital city of the Zhou dynasty.

• The Han dynasty is divided into two major periods: the Western/ Former Han (206 BCE-9 CE) and the Eastern/ Later Han (25-220 CE) The Boundaries established by the Qin and maintained by the Han have more or less defined the nation of China up to the present day. The Western Han capital, Chang’an, a monumental urban center laid out on a north-south axis with palaces, residential wards, and two bustling market areas, was one of the two largest cities in the ancient world. Rome was the other. (MMA)

• The Han dynasty retained many of the policies of Shi Huangdi, enforcing provincial allegiances through a system of tributes. At the same time, the Han dynasty attempted to reduce the influence of the feudal nobility by increasing their number and thus diminishing their individual status. This new class of bureaucrats, which contributed immensely to the stability of the Chinese state, came to power through meritocracy.
Title: Chang’an, “eternal peace”  
Han capital, (today known as Xi’an)

Architect: Han and Tang dynasties

Date: n/a  
Source: https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/875a/9f3c902a41a1edf813555cfd94b5883e47735.pdf?_ga=2.178891297.466334268.1597281143-1797861761.1597281143

Medium: hypothetical diagram, showing part of later Xi’an in relation to Chang’an  
Size: see scale

Note:
- To populate Chang’an the Han forcibly relocated thousands of clan families of military aristocracies to this region. It kept rivals close. (Wiley)
- During the Han dynasty, Chang’an’s population grew to 250,000. Its 22.7 km (13 miles) of walls enclosed about twice the area of Rome. Much of the space inside the walls of Chang’an was occupied by walled palace compounds. (OUP)
- The Weiyang Palace enclave, [where the emperors lived], in the southwest quadrant of Han Chang’an, stretched about 2 km./2 mi. per side. Chinese designers favored rectilinearity and axiality. This led to a horizontal aesthetic and the conscious preference for a uniform range of heights. (OUP)
- Chang’an was just to the south of then by then destroyed Zianyang, the old palace city of the Qin. The Han even used on the Zin palaces, the Xingle Palace as its core renaming it Changle “Long Joy” Palace. About half the city was huge palaces connected by two story passageways and bridges crossing the streets, so that the emperor could move about unseen. (Wiley)

The Weiyang Palace enclave, [where the emperors lived], in the southwest quadrant of Han Chang’an, stretched about 2 km./2 mi. per side. Chinese designers favored rectilinearity and axiality. This led to a horizontal aesthetic and the conscious preference for a uniform range of heights. (OUP)
The Mingtang Temple, Chang’an

**Title:** the Mingtang Temple, Chang’an

**Architect:** Han Chinese  
**Date:** 141-86 BCE

**Source:** OUP; Cambridge U. Press

**Medium:** reconstruction – a square temple on a round base  
**Size:** n/a

**Note:**
- Sacrifices were made here during the year for fertility and good harvests. The layout focused on the cosmological role of the emperor as the conduit of divine grace.
- The principal religious focus of Chang’an, the Mingtang Temple, stood in the southern suburbs.
- The twelve-year revolt of Wang Mang interrupted the Han dynasty control of China. After putting down the rebellion in 25 CE, the Han government relocated their capital to Luoyang, following the precedent of the Zhou dynasty. Han Chang’an faded into oblivion through sacking and neglect. Luoyang became the center of the empire for the next two centuries.
- The emperor had to perform certain rituals to demonstrate that he was the rightful emperor, and to validate the system, that he had the mandate of heaven. The temple was designated as the intersection of heaven (circle) and earth (square), oriented around the four cardinal directions.
Title: Tomb Panel with Relief of Figures in a Pavilion

Architect: Eastern Han dynasty, 25-200 CE  

Date: early 2nd century

Medium: limestone  

Size: 31" H, 50" W. 8” D

Source: MMA, #20.99

Note:

Distinguished by her larger size, bird-shaped cap and flowing gown, the figure at the far left represents Xiwangmu, the Queen Mother of the West, thought to rule the land of the immortals, located somewhere to the west of China. The structured placement of Xiwangmu and her attendants in the pavilion is typical of later Han representations of heavenly courts, which under the influence of Confucianism began to parallel the organization of the earthly one. (MMA)
Title: Central Watchtower
Architect: Eastern Han dynasty, 25-200 CE
Date: 1st-3rd century CE
Source: MMA, #1984.397a,b
Medium: earthenware with green glaze
Size: 41” H, 23” W, 12” D

Note:
• the only information on Han architecture comes from tomb models. (Stokstad)
• wood was the primary material and it was used most often in post-and-beam construction. Watchtowers are one of the few buildings above one story. (Moffett)
• Pottery models of houses and farm structures were commonly included in Eastern Han burials to provide for the afterlife. (MMA)
LUOYANG/ CHENGZHOU

Title: Luoyang/ Chengzhou

Architect: Han Chinese, begun by the Duke of Zhou

Date: begun 1038 BCE, became the capital in 770 BCE, destroyed 510 BCE, rebuilt as Luoyang

Source: en.wikipedia, by SY (right) Boiarskii, Adolf-Nikolay Erazmovich (below) Medium: urban plan, gateway Size: n/a

pai-lou/ paifang: a Chinese ceremonial gateway, erected in memory of an eminent person (Fletcher)

Note:
• palace at the center of the city

Ornamental Gateway (Pailou) from Han Dynasty (202 BCE – 220 CE) across a Street Lined with Small Shops. Hanzhong, Shaanxi Province, China, 1875 WDL2092 (not from the same place)
Title: Tomb model of house

Artist: Eastern Han dynasty  Date: 1st - mid-2nd cent.

Museum: The Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri

Medium: Painted earthenware

Size: 52" X 33 1/2 X 27" (132.1 X 85.1 X 68.6cm)

eave: the overhang of a sloped (or flat) roof projecting beyond a wall

Note:

- this is the way we know about architecture in the Han period. Four stories topped by a watchtower, and facing a small walled courtyard. Farm animals would live on the ground level, and the family above. Note the bracketed and the broad eaves as well as the decorative painting on the exterior walls, some of which illustrates structural features such as lintels. (Stokstad).
- roof structures were based on a series of beams set in parallel tiers, augmented over time by intricate bracketing for beam-column junctions and cantilevered overhangs. (Moffett)
- Note the four sided hipped roofs.
- Chinese buildings have two major distinguishing features: the curving silhouettes of their roofs and their method of construction - that columns, lintels and brackets support the roof eaves; the walls are not weight bearing. (Gardner)
- Predominant colors are red (for columns), black, yellow and white. (Gardner)
- early Chinese roofs have flat profiles but curving rafters later became the norm in China and East Asia.
• The focus of the Chinese house is the courtyard. The central areas would be for the most prominent occupants, such as the elders. The entire house complex is enclosed within a wall, entered through a front gate, and an indirect further entry that blocked an exterior view into the complex. (OUP)
Title: Courtyard in a siheyuan house, Pingyao

Architect: Chinese

Date: 200 BCE – 300 CE

Source: below: OUP; right: https://architectureontheroad.com/pingyao-ancient-town/#.Xy4IoC2z0qI

Medium: view from courtyard    Size: n/a

feng shui: “wind and water”, a Chinese method of geomancy (A method of divination) for proper building orientation influenced by Daoism (based on the study of Lao-Tzu, or “The Way”)

siheyuan: a Chinese dwelling with several individual pavilions set around an open court

Note:
• Chinese Domestic Architecture: Growth by Addition; The house, humble or princely, had as its focus an inner courtyard isolated by a walled envelope around the compound. The Chinese courtyard house, known as siheyuan. Entered through a front gate that set the boundary for peddlers or strangers. An independent roof framed the entry, and a wall behind it blocked the direct view into the interior. One approached the courtyard from the side, conforming to the Fengshui preference for indirect access. (OUP)
Title: Courtyard in a siheyuan house, Pingyao
Architect: Chinese
Date: 200 BCE – 300 CE       Source: OUP
Medium: view from courtyard   Size: n/a

Note:
• Chinese Domestic Architecture: Growth by Addition; The house, humble or princely, had as its focus an inner courtyard isolated by a walled envelope around the compound. The Chinese courtyard house, known as *siheyuan* in Beijing. Entered through a front gate that set the boundary for peddlers or strangers. An independent roof framed the entry, and a wall behind it blocked the direct view into the interior. One approached the courtyard from the side, conforming to the *Fengshui* preference for indirect access.

• The life expectancy of Chinese buildings, public or private, rarely exceeded a generation. Their materials of rammed earth, mud-brick, and timber decayed quickly. The plans rarely varied: a long and shallow rectangle divided into *jian* bays, with pillars to support a superstructure of ceiling beams and a truss roof. All basic Chinese roof types were already present in the Han period: the gable roof with or without overhangs; the hipped roof of four slopes; the roof known as “nine spines.” The Chinese built in earth and wood out of choice: Building and rebuilding, always repeating the same type of structure, served as an allegory of the life cycle of each generation. (OUP)
Title: Wu family shrine: detail from a rubbing of a relief

Architect: Han dynasty  Date: 151 CE

Note:
- the scenes teach Confucian themes such as respect for the emperor, wife for husband, etc.; a focus on earthly behavior. (Stokstad)
- The hero Yi shoots down extra suns, shown as ravens. Note that none of the rooflines are curved. (Gardner)

Source: Jiaxiang, Shandong (Wuliangci)/ Princeton University  Medium: Stone

Size: 27-1/2" X 66-1/2"/ 70 x 169cm
Buddhism had originated during the 5th cent. BCE in India and then spread via the Silk Route, offering consolation in life and the promise of salvation in death, but none of the Buddhist architecture of the Six Dynasties period remains. What does remain are hundred of northern rock-cut caves along the trade routes. This used to be enclosed by the front part of the cave. The long ears, ushnisha (bun) and monk’s robe are traditional attributes. The masklike face, wide shoulders and stylized drapery are Central Asian in influence. (Stokstad)

We’ll pick up with Buddhism in Asia again in lectures 6.3 and 7.2.

Note:
- Buddhism became the most widespread organized religion in China, transmitted to the country during the 1st or 2nd cent. CE by merchants of the Silk Route, connecting Persia, India, Central Asia and China. (Moffett)

Title: Seated Buddha, Cave 20, Yungang, Datong
Artist: Wei dynasty (386-534 CE)
Date: c. 460 CE
Source: Shanxi, Northern Wei dynasty, wikimedia
Medium: carved from “live” rock
Size: 45’/13.7 m. H.
end of Chapter 5, Part 2